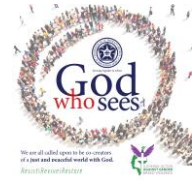




# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



## ELCSA, Hagar Campaign

### Human trafficking

#### Introduction to the text

The story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 is a well-known story in the life of the church. In this CBS we focus on the first chapter of this story.

#### Background to the text

The story of Joseph is told over many chapters, and moves from a focus on the family to a focus on the Egyptian nation, and then back to a focus on the family. The first chapter of this story, Genesis 37, lays the foundation for the story that follows. We are fortunate to have permission to use the woodcut by the late Azaria Mbatha as a resource for this CBS. Mbatha focuses on the family story, but connects this story to the wider world of human trafficking. Note that in this story Jacob, Joseph's father, is also called Israel. It is also important to note that Joseph comes from a polygamous family, with one father and four mothers. The brothers therefore have different mothers. This is an important aspect of the story.

#### Theme:

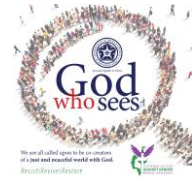
The God who sees everyone, especially those living in the captivity of human trafficking.

#### Bible Study

1. Azaria Mbatha, an artist from KwaZulu-Natal, has produced a beautiful woodcut in which he portrays the story of Joseph in 9 panels. In small groups, use Mbatha's woodcut to remind yourselves of the story of Joseph. Try to identify the part of the story that each panel tells. When the small groups come together as one large group, each small group should be given the opportunity to share its understanding of a particular panel in Mbatha's woodcut, beginning with panel 1 and then moving through from panel 1 to panel 9. Together you will retell the story of Joseph.
2. With all the small groups gathered together, having shared your understandings of Mbatha's 9 panels, now listen to a dramatic reading of Genesis 37, with different members of the Bible study group taking the roles of the different characters in the story: a narrator, Joseph, his brothers, his father/Jacob/Israel, Reuben, and Judah.
3. In small groups, re-read Genesis 37:1-4. These verses indicate that there is conflict between Joseph and his brothers. What is the cause of this conflict?
4. In small groups, re-read Genesis 37:5-11. These verses indicate additional causes of the conflict between Joseph and his brothers. What are these additional causes of the conflict?
5. After the small groups have reported to the large group on Questions 4 and 5, the small groups once again return to re-reading Genesis 37. In small groups, re-read Genesis 12-28. This part of the story tells how Joseph's brother sell Joseph to human traffickers. Look again



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at Mbatha's panel 2. What do these verses and Mbatha's panel 2 tell us about some of the reasons for and the reality of human trafficking?

6. The story of Joseph continues in Genesis 39, where Joseph is sold again, this time to Egyptians, where he becomes an enslaved worker in Potiphar's household. Mbatha's woodcut is again useful in helping us recognise that this is a further case of human trafficking. Look again at Mbatha's panel 4. Panel 5 is a further example of Joseph as a trafficked slave. Potiphar's wife assumes she can do what she wants with Joseph, treating him a sex slave. How does the story of Joseph in Genesis 37 help us to understand 'human trafficking'?

7. What is your understanding of 'human trafficking'? How does your local community and your local church understand 'human trafficking'? Is 'human trafficking' spoken about in your local community and local church? Is this form of enslavement visible or invisible in South Africa?

8. What can you as a local community of faith do about human trafficking? What actions can you take to (1) make your children aware of human trafficking and (2) work alongside other organisations to speak out and act against human trafficking?

9. In each small group write a prayer for those enslaved by human trafficking which can be used in your church.

LUTHERAN ACTION  
**AGAINST GENDER**  
BASED VIOLENCE

*Resist | Revive | Restore*